(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

Scheduled Tribes Vacant Posts

283. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the posts meant for scheduled tribes are lying vacant under different categories in the Ministry; State-wise;

(b) whether persons belonging to other castes have been working against those posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and post-wise; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to fill up the total backlong ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Development of Wind Energy

284. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any schemes has been formulated for the development of wind energy in view of the acute shortage of power in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up research centres for the development of wind energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount estimated to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) A total wind power capacity of 900 MW has been installed in the country. Over two billion units of electricity have so far been generated and fed to the grid from these projects. Wind power installation have come about mainly through private sector investments. Government support has been by way of wind resource assessment and demonstration projects aggregating to 50 MW undertaken by State agencies and Electricity Boards.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has decided to establish a Wind Power Systems Development and Test Centre to undertake R&D, testing and to serve as the technical focal point for wind power development in the country. A Wind Turbine Test Station will be set up as an integral part of the Centre. Technical and partial financial support for the Test Station will be provided by the Government of Denmark. An amount of about Rs. 10 crore is likely to be incurred in the establishment of the Station.

[Translation]

Construction of Railway Line

285. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to construct railway line in the Adivasi areas of the country which have Mineral Wealth in huge quantity such as Garchilori in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several lines are under construction in the Adivasi areas of the country which have mineral wealth. These include Daitari-Banspani, Khurda Road-Bolangir. Construction of Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur line in such a area has also been approved and would be taken up in the coming years. As regards Garchilori, a survey for a new line from Wadsa to Garchilori has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[English]

Funds to Bihar for Employment Assurance Scheme

286. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for non-availability of funds for district Begusarai in Bihar under the Employment Assurance Scheme during the current year; and

(b) the efforts being made to ensure that the funds are made available to the State timely ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Proposal for release of Central assistance under Employment Assurance Scheme has not been received for the current year from district Begusarai in Bihar. Central assistance is released only upon receipt of proposal from the district concerned indicating block-wise progress of expenditure and utilisation certificate in respect of the previous release.

The utilisation and releases are monitored periodically and State Governments reminded to submit the utilisation certificates and proposals for release of funds.

Misues of Funds Allocated for Poverty Alleviation

287. SHRI JAI PRAKASH HARDOI :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that funds meant for poverty alleviation programme are being misused;

(b) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken to check the same;

(c) whether the Government propose to revamp antipoverty programmes during Ninth Plan;

(d) if so, the broad feature of the proposal;

(e) whether the Committee instituted to review and rationalise the schemes for poverty alleviation and employment generation has since submitted its report;

(f) if so, the main features of the report; and

(g) the main recommendations thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The schemes are being mentioned regularly by the Centre and State Govts. through monthly, quarterly & annual progress received from the implementing agencies and the spot visits of Senior Officers of the Ministries under Area Officers Schemes. A system of checks & balances is built in various schemes so that the funds meant for the scheme are properly utilised.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. The main features of the report regarding Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) are :

(i) The quantum of subsidy by standardised for all individual beneficiaries at Rs. 7500/-

(ii) The projects cost for individual beneficiaries sponsored under IRDP should range within the investment of Rs. 25,000/- to 50,000/-

(iii) Effect should be made to move away from individual beneficiary approach to a group approach.

(iv) If has also been recommended that Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Toolkits Programme should be merged with IRDP which are hitherto separate sub-schemes.

Ministry is seriously considering to take action on such issues.

[Translation]

Power Generation Capacity of Hydel Power Projects

288. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total power generation capacity of hydel power projects in Maharashtra in megawatts;

(b) the State-wise names of hydel power projects sanctioned by Union Government so far;

(c) the number of Indian and Foreign firms which have invested in these projects;

(d) the names of projects for which applications from State Governments have been received; and

(e) the State-wise number of projects accorded approval during 1995-96 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The total power generating capacity of hydel power projects in Maharashtra is tentatively 1785.22 MW as on 31.3.1997.

(b) The state-wise hydel power projects sanctioned by the Union Government so far is at the attached Statement-I.